

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the above-identified application, and claims 3, 10, 12, and 16 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 11 and 13 were rejected, claims 14 and 15 were objected to, and claims 1, 2, and 4-9 were allowed. With this Amendment, claims 11 and 13-15 were amended. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-9, 11, and 13-15 are at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claim 11, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejection of Claims

Claims 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that their amendment to claims 11 and 13 obviate this rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

III. Objection To Claims


Claims 14-15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have not amended these claims, but respectfully submit that these claims are allowable by virtue of their dependencies from claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this objection has been obviated, and respectfully request its withdrawal.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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